30th July 1965] [Mr. Chairman]

August 2nd	..	Discussion on the First Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for 1965-66.
		The Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 1965.
August 3rd	..	Discussion on the Electricity Board Budget for 1965-66 (continued).
August 4th	..	Reply by the Hon. Minister for Industries to the debate on the Electricity Board Budget for 1965-66.
		The Madurai University Bill, 1965 and other Official Bills, if any.
August 5th	..	Official Bills.
August 6th	..	Non-Official Day.
August 7th	..	Discussion on the Draft Outline of the Fourth Five-year Plan.
August 8th	..	Holiday—Sunday.
August 9th and 10th	..	Discussion on the Draft Outline of the Fourth Five-Year Plan (continued).
August 11th and 12th	..	Official Bills.

The Council will meet daily from 3 to 6 p.m. The Council will adjourn on the 12th August 1965.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am saying this for the information of the hon. Members so that they may have time to prepare. On the 2nd August, we will have discussion on the First Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for 1965-66, and the Official Bill, the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, which replaces the Ordinance. Then on the 4th August, the Official Bill will be the Madurai University Bill.

IV.—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG THE POWERLOOM WORKERS.

DR. H. V. HANDE : Sir, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Industries to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the unemployment among the powerloom workers due to the refusal to supply power by the Electricity Board to newly installed powerlooms in the State.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to make the following statement.

The acquisition and installation of powerlooms are governed by the provisions of the Cotton Textiles (Control) Order, 1948, and the Textiles (Production by Powerlooms) Control Order, 1956.

Under these orders, the Textile Commissioner is the competent authority to grant permits for the acquisition and installation of powerlooms. For the installation of powerlooms, one has to secure in addition to the permit from the Textile Commissioner a licence known as L-4 licence from the Central Excise Authorities under Rule 174 of the Central Excise Rules, 1944.

The present policy of the Government is to regulate the growth of powerloom industry so that handlooms will be gradually replaced by the powerlooms and thereby avoid large scale unemployment among the handloom weavers.

As a rule the Textile Commissioner does not issue permits after 31st October 1960 for the setting up of new powerlooms. But persons obtain L-4 licence from the Central Excise Authorities without obtaining a permit from the Textile Commissioner. In view of the liberal issue of the L-4 licences by the Central Excise Authorities, unauthorised installation of powerlooms had been on the increase. The Government of India were therefore addressed to impose a ban on the grant of L-4 licences to powerlooms not covered by a permit issued by the Textile Commissioner. They have since agreed that as an administrative measure the Central Excise Department will not in future entertain any fresh application for licensing powerloom units unless the Textile Commissioner's authorisation has already been obtained by the applicant in this behalf.

The Government considered that in the interest of the handloom weavers unauthorised installation of powerlooms should be discouraged. It became therefore imperative to check such unauthorised installation by refusing power supply to such units. The Government have therefore instructed the Madras State Electricity Board under section 78-A of the Electricity Supply Act, 1948, to grant the power supply only to those powerlooms which have both the permit issued by the Textile Commissioner and the L-4 licence granted by the Central Excise Authorities.

I submit that the Government are aware of the difficulties of handloom weavers in the State and they have to prevent the growth of unauthorised powerlooms in order to pave the way to introduce powerlooms in weavers' co-operative societies as recommended by the Powerloom Enquiry Committee. The setting up of powerlooms without the permit of the Textile Commissioner is unauthorised and contrary to the provisions of the Control orders referred to above. Installation of unauthorised powerlooms cannot be encouraged.

V.—PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE FOURTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have great pleasure in placing formally the Draft Outline of the State's Fourth Plan on the table of the House. A significant